

Computer Security Survey (CSS) Workshop

Questionnaire Content and Data Collection Strategies

Thomas L. Mesenbourg
Assistant Director for Economic Programs
Bureau of the Census
tmesenbo@census.gov

April 24, 2002

Agenda

- Proposed computer security survey
- Collection strategies
- Response issues



Background

- In July 2001 BJS approached the Census Bureau about collecting data on computer-related crime.
- Survey complements Census Bureau's existing e-business programs.
- Because of data collection concerns, decided to conduct a pilot survey before conducting a full-scale survey.



What's Been Done

- Oct 2001 Work begins
- Dec 2001 – Apr 2002
 - met with interested organizations and groups
 - draft report form
 - 39 cognitive interviews -- identified problems and reporting issues
 - revise report form



What's Changed on the Questionnaire

- Dropped segmental reporting
- Changed respondent contact from CIO to person on Business Register
- Addressed several sensitivities
- Dropped “total question” on the form
- Broadened monetary loss to include cost of recovery, legal and investigative costs
- Added a more specific loss/expense question under each incident question



What's Next

April	Workshop
May	Cognitive Interviews Finalize forms Select sample of 500 companies
June	Mail pilot
Sept.-Dec.	Pilot evaluation
Jan. 2003	Census Bureau Evaluation Report and Feasibility Assessment to BJS
Aug.	If pilot positive, full scale data collection begins



Report Form

Six sections on form

- **Computer Security Concerns**
 - top 3 concerns
- **Computer Infrastructure and Security**
 - check boxes
- **Unlicensed Copying or Use of Software**
 - lost revenue estimate
- **Types of Computer Security Incident**
 - 6 specific types and “other”
 - number of incidents
 - total monetary loss
 - specific dollar loss
- **Most Important Incident**
 - check boxes
- **Company Information**



Collection Strategies

Who to mail form to?

Originally -- CIO, CTO, Chief Security Officer

- not familiar with Census forms

Now -- use normal contact name/address:
accountant

- familiar with Census Bureau surveys
- little cyber crime expertise

Others:??

Should we suggest who may be able to
help complete form in letter or on form?



How to Get Businesses to Complete and Return Form

Challenges

- Sensitive subject matter
- Concerns about FOIA/data sharing
- Response is voluntary

Possible Facilitators

- Directly address FOIA and data sharing concerns
- Emphasize what's in it for the company
- Highlight top 5 metrics from survey results
- Endorsements -- who??

Other Ideas???



Reporting Issues

- Reporting monetary loss
 - Who in the company would estimate?
 - Instructions clear? Suggested method?
 - Will companies understand difference between 7C and 7D, for example?
 - Alternative ways to collect loss data?
 - How will we know if estimates are reasonable?



Form Content

Did we miss something important?

Send comments and suggestions to:
ronald.h.lee@census.gov



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Helping You Make Informed Decisions • 1902-2002